

# **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Community Health Improvement Plan Regional Meeting**

## **Service Planning Area 4**

September 16, 2014

Meeting Notes

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Cristin Mondy, Area Health Officer for Service Planning Areas 3 & 4 for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) provided the meeting welcome, led stakeholder introductions and discussed the meeting purpose:

- Launch a network of local stakeholders to collaboratively prioritize health issues, identify gaps in service and increase coordination to improve health outcomes.
- Provide input into DPH's Community Health Improvement Plan, a 5-year strategic plan for improving health in Los Angeles County

DPH would like to convene this network on an ongoing basis so that we can work together on long-term planning and coordination of efforts in SPA 4.

### II. Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, Public Health Accreditation

Virginia Huang Richman, Interim Director, Office of Planning Evaluation and Development for the LAC DPH presented the Community Health Assessment (CHA), the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and Public Health Accreditation.

- Last November the DPH kicked-off a county-wide community health improvement planning process. This process started with public input on DPH's health planning process, as well as input on what to include in an upcoming Community Health Assessment (CHA), a report on the health status and conditions affecting the health of residents in Los Angeles County. The CHA will be posted on our website for public comment.
- Now we are working on developing the CHIP, which is a 5-year county-wide strategic plan for improving the health of Los Angeles County residents. Through this process we will identify areas of need and develop a strategic plan with measureable goals attached to population measures.
- Local health departments can now become accredited when they meet a set of standards which are designed to ensure the quality and performance of our work. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is going through this process. This is a process that will be taking place every 5 years, for public health accreditation. The accreditation of local public health departments is happening throughout the country. Although the CHA and CHIP are prerequisites, we see them as opportunities to work more closely with local stakeholders and truly move the needle toward improved health in Los Angeles County.

### III. What is a Healthy Community?

As we think about health, it is important to ensure that we all work from the same place, so there was a discussion of the meeting attendees' vision for a Healthy Community. Two video clips from 'Unnatural Causes,' a documentary that examines the role of social determinants in creating healthy communities, were viewed. These were discussed as well as Healthy Community definitions from the World Health Organization and the California Department of Public Health's Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project.

Suggestions for additional features of a healthy community were documented:

- Reduced exposure to secondhand smoking
- Cultural sensitivity and emphasis on behavior change
- Social engagement
- Safety – not just violence & the built environment
- Community involvement and leadership
- Youth/interpersonal issues

#### IV. Report on Service Planning Area 4 Community Health Assessment

Data from the forthcoming Community Health Assessment was presented on a number of health indicators describing Service Planning Area 4 and comparing it with Los Angeles Countywide data. We also reviewed the hospital Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) and noted the most frequently cited issues in this SPA.

#### V. Issue prioritization

A number of issues were selected from the CHA and CHNAs and additional issues were suggested by stakeholders. After a discussion, the meeting attendees used sticky dots to vote on the issues in SPA 4 on which this network could focus its efforts. Each stakeholder was given 3 dots for voting. Stakeholders were asked to consider these prioritization criteria:

- Size: Number of persons affected, taking into account variance from benchmark data and targets
- Seriousness: Degree to which the problem leads to death, disability, and impairs one's quality of life
- Trends: Whether or not the health problem is getting better or worse in the community over time
- Equity: Degree to which specific groups are affected by a problem
- Feasibility: Ability of network participants to reasonably combat the problem given available resources. Related to the amount of control & knowledge (influence) network has on the issue

The three issues that received the most votes are: Mental Health, Access to Care (including transportation barriers for seniors), Obesity/Overweight.

The network will focus on these issues over the next 5 years. The issue receiving the most votes that will be the network's first priority is mental health.

#### VI. Collaboration Activity

To begin a discussion on how this new network can work on mental health, stakeholders were asked to list their current strategies for working on the issue of mental health, the strategy gaps they see, and suggestions for collaboration. It was stressed that even if your organization does not work directly on mental health issues, there still may be connections and opportunities to collaborate. These options will be explored through our network.

#### VII. Meeting wrap-up and next steps

Cristin Mondy thanked participants for attending and engaging in a lively discussion. The purpose of this meeting was reviewed, to form a network to work on health issues to improve health in SPA 4. The DPH will investigate the suggestions provided for collaboration as well as evidence-based practices for the next meeting to extend our discussion.

**Please join us for our next meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at The California Endowment**